

THE *Area Plan Commission*
of TIPPECANOE COUNTY

20 NORTH 3RD STREET
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47901-1209

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SALLIE DELL FAHEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 27, 2010
Ref. No. 2010-161

Re: US 52 Lafayette
DES #: 9802510
Tippecanoe County

Ms Mary Jackman,
INDOT
100 North Senate Avenue, N642
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms Jackman,

The staff of the Area Plan Commission (APC) thanks INDOT for the opportunity to provide written comments on the referenced project and for the steps it has taken to incorporate local concerns about the project. It is imperative that the design reflect the current needs of users and adjacent businesses as well as their future needs. This is our opportunity to improve the design of the road so it will better serve the public for the next 50 years.

As presented verbally at the public hearing, the APC has four concerns: 1) the safety of the motoring public, 2) the need to minimize congestion, 3) the viability of the commercial areas that drive access from US 52, and 4) the need for sidewalks. Our specific comments are:

1. Sidewalks need to be constructed on both sides of US 52 as well as connect to other existing sidewalks in the community. The current plans include sidewalk construction only on one side of the road and we are concerned that this will force some pedestrians to walk in the road. The statement was made at the public hearing that in those locations where there are no sidewalks being constructed that the R/W would be graded for a future sidewalk. We feel that policy is short sighted and saves only a minimum amount of money. Pedestrian crossings of US 52 should be established at Greenbush, Union, SR 26 and McCarty Lane.
2. To improve safety and reduce congestion, more driveways should be closed than are shown on the current plans. As many driveways as possible should be closed to preserve capacity, minimize congestion and optimize safety. We favor the goal of closing the driveways that you specified in your email to us on February 3, 2010, detailing the closure of 21 driveways. Obviously there is a trade off between closing driveways and maintaining the economic viability of the corridor. Driveways should be considered for closure based on their: proximity to another drive, proximity to an intersection, the number of drives on the property, lot size and ease of on site circulation. Additionally, consideration should be given to one way driveways, changing the location and width of driveways if it will improve safety or reduce congestion.
3. Construct a right turn lane onto eastbound McCarty from northbound US 52.

4. All left turn lanes on US 52 should allow permissive, and protective were appropriate, left turns.
5. There should be a landscaping replacement program.
6. We support: the current pavement design and material, the median design, and the lengthening of the left turn lanes on US 52.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If INDOT has any questions about our comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "T".

John P. Thomas
Assistant Director for Transportation Planning
Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County
20 N. 3rd Street
Lafayette, IN 47901